

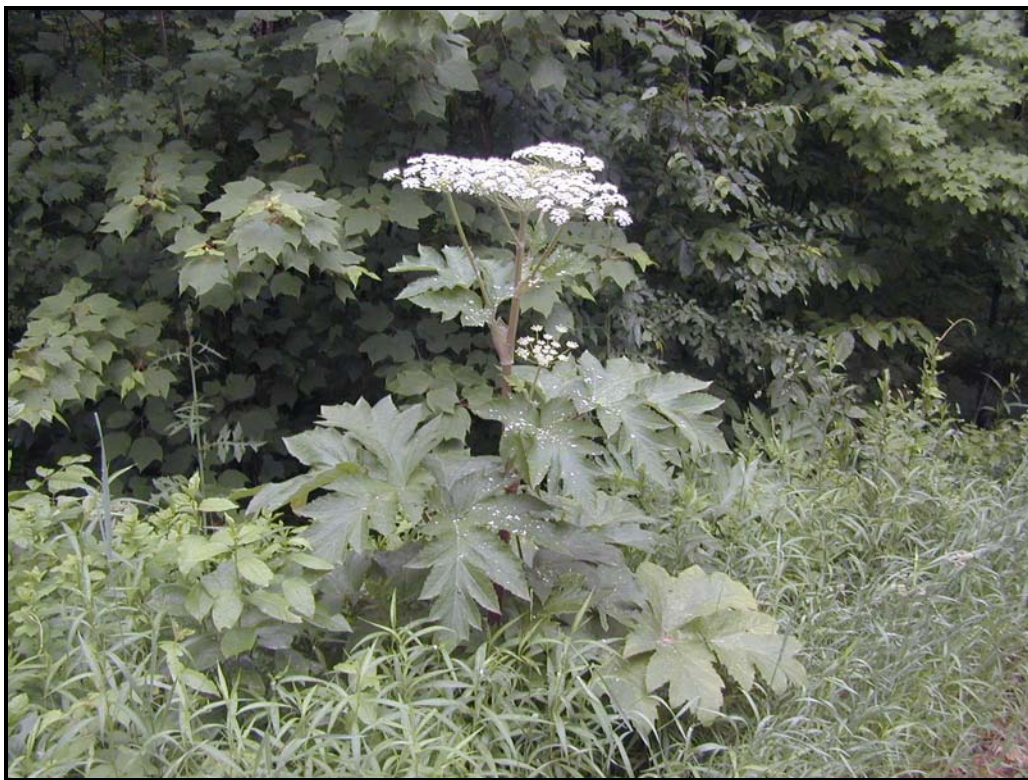
Giant Hogweed

Pest Survey Information Sheet

Background: Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a Federal Noxious Weed native to the Caucasus Mountain Region of Eurasia. Early in the 20th Century, this tall majestic plant was introduced into North America for ornamental purposes. The plant escaped cultivation and became naturalized in rich, moist soils along roadsides, stream banks and waste ground. In the Eastern Plant Board states, this plant is known to occur in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington DC. In the Eastern half of the U. S., the plant also has been recorded from Michigan and Ohio, and certain Canadian provinces (Ontario and British Columbia) also have reported Giant Hogweed.

Prior to 2001, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania were the only Eastern Plant Board states where Giant Hogweed was known to occur. However, during the past several years, Giant Hogweed has been confirmed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, DC. Rhode Island and West Virginia each have suspect sites. The Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Delaware Invasive Species Council also are interested in hogweed because in 2002, it was confirmed for the first time in Chester County Pennsylvania, a southern tier county that borders both northern Delaware and Maryland. Most likely, Giant Hogweed is more widespread than our current knowledge indicates.

Giant Hogweed was first reported from Pennsylvania in the early 1980s from Erie County. The pathway of introduction of hogweed into Pennsylvania appears to be possible natural spread from southern-tier New York State counties and through human-assisted means. Pennsylvania and New York have the largest populations of Giant Hogweed of the Eastern Plant Board states and their central locations make them prime pathways for Giant Hogweed to spread to neighboring Mid Atlantic and New England States. The poisonous properties of Giant Hogweed plus its showy appearance as a landscape plant are areas of concern for all state departments of agriculture in the Eastern Plant Board. Considering this situation, a regional survey program for Giant Hogweed is in the best interests of all states and USDA, APHIS, PPQ.



Mature Giant Hogweed growing wild along a New Hampshire roadway



Flowers of Giant Hogweed are whitish and are formed in umbels that can reach 1' across



Seeds are 3/8" long, flattish and have 2-4 brownish stripes



Stalks are 2" in diameter, purplish green, and covered with hairs



Purplish green stems support 1.5-2' long dentate leaves



Giant Hogweed is aggressive and readily becomes established